

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

63. (Currently Amended) An oligopeptide for use in a fragment complementation system consisting essentially of an N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment fused to a flexible polypeptide linker and a first interactor domain ~~A  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment for use in a fragment complementation system comprising an N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment,~~

wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 26 to 188 up to amino acid 207 of a  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence with the following numbering convention:

His	Pro	Glu	Thr	Leu	Val	Lys	Val	Lys	Asp	Ala	Glu	Asp	Gln	Leu	Gly
26				30					35					40	
Ala	Arg	Val	Gly	Tyr	Ile	Glu	Leu	Asp	Leu	Asn	Ser	Gly	Lys	Ile	Leu
			45						50				55		
Glu	Ser	Phe	Arg	Pro	Glu	Glu	Arg	Phe	Pro	Met	Met	Ser	Thr	Phe	Lys
		60					65						70		
Val	Leu	Leu	Cys	Gly	Ala	Val	Leu	Ser	Arg	Ile	Asp	Ala	Gly	Gln	Glu
	75						80						85		
Gln	Leu	Gly	Arg	Arg	Ile	His	Tyr	Ser	Gln	Asn	Asp	Leu	Val	Glu	Tyr
90				95						100				105	
Ser	Pro	Val	Thr	Glu	Lys	His	Leu	Thr	Asp	Gly	Met	Thr	Val	Arg	Glu
						110				115				120	
Leu	Cys	Ser	Ala	Ala	Ile	Thr	Met	Ser	Asp	Asn	Thr	Ala	Ala	Asn	Leu
		125							130					135	
Leu	Leu	Thr	Thr	Ile	Gly	Gly	Pro	Lys	Glu	Leu	Thr	Ala	Phe	Leu	His
		140							145					150	
Asn	Met	Gly	Asp	His	Val	Thr	Arg	Leu	Asp	Arg	Trp	Glu	Pro	Glu	Leu

155 160 165  
Asn Glu Ala Ile Pro Asn Asp Glu Arg Asp Thr Thr Met Pro Val Ala  
170 175 180 185  
Met Ala Thr Thr Leu Arg Lys Leu Leu Thr Gly Glu Leu Leu Thr Leu  
190 195 200  
Ala Ser Arg Gln Gln Leu Ile Asp Trp Met Glu Ala Asp Lys Val Ala  
205 210 215  
Gly Pro Leu Leu Arg Ser Ala Leu Pro Ala Gly Trp Phe Ile Ala Asp  
220 225 230  
Lys Ser Gly Ala Gly Glu Arg Gly Ser Arg Gly Ile Ile Ala Ala Leu  
235 240 245  
Gly Pro Asp Gly Lys Pro Ser Arg Ile Val Val Ile Tyr Thr Thr Gly  
250 255 260 265  
Ser Gln Ala Thr Met Asp Glu Arg Asn Arg Gln Ile Ala Glu Ile Gly  
270 275 280  
Ala Ser Leu Ile Lys His Trp  
285

(SEQ ID NO: 2);

wherein said fragment complementation system is used *in vitro* or in a eukaryotic host cell;

wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment is able to functionally reconstitute with a C-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment consisting of amino acids 288 to 208 up to amino acid 189 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence; and

wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment is altered from said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence by at least one amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a lysine to glutamic acid substitution at position 55,
- (b) a proline to serine substitution at position 62, and
- (c) a methionine to threonine substitution at position 182.

64. (Previously Presented) The  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment of claim 63, wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 26 to 195 up to amino acid 202 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence.

65. (Previously Presented) The  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment of claim 63, wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids ~~±~~ 26 to 197 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence and said C-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 288 to 198 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence.

66. (Previously Presented) The  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment of claim 63, wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 26 to 197 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence, said C-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 288 to 198 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence, and said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment comprises the amino acid substitution (c).